

# "Camels are known for their inner strength"

TAIPEI, Taiwan (BP) — The mayor of Taipei has honored Southern Baptist missionary Angie Golmon for her ministry to teenaged prostitutes, orphans and the elderly.

Golmon, a Jackson, Tenn., native, received the Golden Camel Award from Taipei Mayor Hsu Shwei-De in recent ceremonies in Taipei, the nation's capital. Some 3,000 guests assembled at the Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall to honor her and 19 other men and women involved in government and private social service. Golmon and a Spanish Catholic nurse were the only non-Chinese honorees in the group.

The awards were presented for only the second time, Hsu said.

"Camels are of nondescript outward appearance but are known



for their inner strength, perseverance and ability to suffer under the burdens of others," the mayor observed, holding up one of the camel trophies. "They seek not praise but are faithful in rendering service to others. These are apt descriptions of the actions and motives of those we honor with the Golden Camel Awards today."

The honorees included workers with the mentally ill, the elderly, orphans, prisoners, juvenile delinquents, prostitutes, and the poor.

Golmon, the mother of three children, has worked in Taiwan with her husband, music missionary Bob Golmon of Moss Point, Miss., since 1981. For more than three years, she has joined Chinese Baptist women who visit retirement homes and orphanages.

More recently she began work at a detention home for young girls arrested for prostitution. Beginning with English conversation classes, she has developed relationships with several teenaged

girls, talking and listening. She gives additional time helping those released to make a new start in life.

The director and other counselors at the detention center sometimes ask Golmon's help in advising girls with special needs. The missionary also has enlisted the aid of Mrs. Wang, a Chinese Christian psychologist. Wang has become a supporter of the girls and has invited some to live temporarily in her home.

Golmon told the story of two Chinese prostitutes named Karen and Cathy, age 14 and 15, whom she befriended in the detention center. After their release, the girls had no place to go but back to the hotel where they worked before.

One Saturday afternoon the girls called Golmon and asked her to come and see them. Golmon and missionary Nannette Lites located the girls and talked with them. Asked if they would turn their back on prostitution if they could, both

girls replied, "Yes, but we have no other place to go." Early Sunday morning Karen called Golmon again, this time in tears.

By Wednesday, Golmon had helped arrange for Karen and Cathy to move into Wang's house. But after three days the girls were gone again. They left most of their things at Wang's, however, and the Christian women hope they will come back.

Perhaps Karen and Cathy chose to be prostitutes, but Sandy's story is different. She was sold by her parents into prostitution. Although she said she wants to leave the hotels, she has to stay. Others like her are there because of family debts. Some girls are actually members of families who operate the hotels. For them it is a business, the only life they have ever known.

In consultation with the Chinese Baptist women and several Baptist pastors, Golmon has developed the idea of a halfway house to help the



girls make a transition back into society.

Several Baptist groups are considering this project. So is Taipei's Social Welfare Department. Planners hope the city can provide a facility while Baptists supply the volunteer staff for the halfway house.

The Golmons were appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1971. They studied Mandarin Chinese in Taiwan from 1972 to 1974, then worked in Malaysia and the Philippines before returning to Taiwan in 1981.

# The Baptist Record

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## Directions 2000 Forum focuses on future of SBC

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists will go "back to the future" — maintaining traditional values while adapting to a changing environment — as they minister in the closing years of the 20th century, according to a consensus report developed by denominational planners.

About 200 Southern Baptist Convention leaders formulated the report during Directions 2000 Forum, a long-range strategy session designed to help formulate denominational plans for the final decade of the century.

"Our purpose was to involve church, association, state convention, and SBC agency leaders in the development of the 1990-2000 SBC Bold Mission Thrust Emphasis Plan," said Reginald M. McDonough, executive vice president of the SBC Executive Committee and chairperson of the workgroup which coordinated the forum.

Bold Mission Thrust is the convention's campaign to present the gospel of Christ to every person by the year 2000.

Although forum participants stressed their plans were preliminary and their wording unpolished, they developed a consensus document which should give direction to Bold Mission Thrust activities during the decade. The document included 11 principal areas of concern:

- Authority of the Bible;
- Need for non-Christians to find faith in Christ;
- "Authentic" worship of God;
- Christian nurture and discipleship;
- Commitment to missions;
- Support for families;
- Creation of new churches;
- Ministry in cities;
- Service to people in need;
- Biblical doctrine and Baptist polity and heritage; and
- Stewardship of resources.

The list of concerns was formulated following two presentations that prepared participants to think about upcoming world needs and what Southern Baptists can do about them.

The first presentation, "Trends Toward 2000," focused on global changes which will affect ministry during the next 15 years. It was prepared by Doran McCarty, professor of ministry at Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and presented by O. D. Morris, research director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

"People are the bottom line, not technology, housing, or automobiles," Morris said. The world's population is changing, with the largest increases coming in Third World countries, he noted, pointing out gigantic gains in the numbers of young people, city dwellers, and non-Caucasians.

"The world is getting smaller," he

added, citing the complex interconnection of such factors as economic relationships, education, tourism and even international marriages. Other factors which he said will shape trends include acceleration of the "information era," diversification of education, an increase in the world's "income gap," an expanded influence of technology, a focus upon human worth as a social issue and a renewed interest in many forms of religion.

The second presentation was an explanation of the "Bold Mission Thrust Planning for the 1990's" questionnaire, analyzed and presented by J. Clifford Tharp Jr., research associate for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The survey's findings were based on 7,081 responses from Southern Baptist in 33 state Baptist conventions, Tharp said. Respondents were asked to rank 87 concepts in importance on a four-point scale. The concepts dealt with how churches should respond to changing population, the "world getting smaller," the information era, diversity and specialization of education, the income gap, technological advances, social issues, and religious diversity.

The five items which earned highest rankings revolved around winning/reaching non-Christians for Christ and affirming the authority of the Bible, Tharp reported.

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.



Breakfast in Bangkok

A Thai woman on a Bangkok street fries coconut-flavored patties for sale. She is one of many who sell their food specialties along the streets. Beyond the fence behind her is a Buddhist "spirit house," similar to ones found at the east corner of the yard of almost every Buddhist home in Thailand, where Buddhism is the national religion. (See Page 9 story on Thailand.) — Photo by Anne McWilliams

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Thursday, March 6, 1986

# Editorials . . . . . by don mcgregor

## No "smoking gun"

The Southern Baptist Peace Committee has forged a statement that the committee says illustrates the differences among Southern Baptists but which the committee points out does not cover all of the differences.

The committee notes that the statement points out the diversity that all have known existed but which has not been formally stated before.

The statement does indeed point out a wide range of differences. The committee is hoping that in spite of that fact, there may be found an avenue of mutual acceptance so that we may all work together in harmony.

Of course, working together in harmony has not been the primary problem. The concern of the more conservative group has been over what is being taught in classrooms. And, if what is mentioned in the statement is indicative of what to expect in some Southern Baptist-related classrooms, then there is cause for concern, particularly in relation to the idea that some miracles are intended to be taken as parabolic. If that is to be the case, we'll need someone to tell us which ones were not actual miracles.

It would be better not to discuss the problem points at this time, however. The committee says in its statement, to be found elsewhere in this issue, that it should not be used as a "smoking gun" in the hands of those who have been critical of a part of the total spectrum of seminary teaching. Charles Fuller, chairman of the peace committee, pleads for understanding and patience as the committee continues to pursue its objective between now and convention time in June in Atlanta. If the statement is mishandled, he said, we could forfeit whatever opportunity we might have to build

bridges of peace.

We must allow the committee the time it needs to seek a proposal for a solution to the problems in the Southern Baptist Convention. The committee did not tell us anything new in its statement. We knew we were diverse. I must admit that there are areas of diversity of which I was not aware. But that doesn't change the necessity of letting the committee do its work before we take off on the battles again. This is a time for waiting, hoping, and praying.

Recognizing the need for some kind of nomenclature by which we can identify ourselves, the committee has proposed that we call one extreme group fundamental-conservatives and the other extreme group moderate-conservatives. In its meeting last month in Williamsburg, Va., the Southern Baptist Press Association, the organization of state Baptist paper editors, voted to ask Baptist Press, the nationwide Baptist news gathering and disseminating agency to employ those terms. W. C. Fields, director of Baptist Press, agreed.

Terms, or labels, however, have a way of presenting problems. I have reservations about the proposed idea. If we are to accept the fact that all are conservatives and we are simply

seeking to differentiate between conservative groups, then there is no need to use the term, conservative. We should dispense with that and call the groups fundamentalists and moderates. Neither side, however, likes the more simplistic term that would be applied to itself in this case.

So perhaps the labels proposed by the peace committee would be the best solution possible. We will weigh the possibilities here and try to make a responsible decision. This solution, however, does not give a label to the great mass of Southern Baptists who do not want to identify with either camp. Surely there is something they could be called. They may be the most important group of all.

Also those labels do not speak to the real issue that is troubling many who might be placed in the fundamental-conservative camp. They are concerned about what is being taught in seminary classrooms. There is no question about that. Of equal concern, if not of more concern, is their feeling that there are those in classrooms, and in other denominational offices, who have lost touch with them.

We have grown to be a gigantic religious body. It is difficult, if not impossible, to have everyone feeling good about everyone else at any time. To feel in a democratic body,

"TAKE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF OUR BAPTIST PAPER. DEAR BROTHER— THAT WAS A GREAT EDITORIAL YOU WROTE AGAINST POLITICS IN THE CONVENTION, AS I WAS SAYING TO OUR LITTLE PRESSURE GROUP TODAY!"



however, that one does not have the ear of those they have placed in office, either directly or indirectly, is bound to be disconcerting.

We have many problems. As has been requested by the peace committee, let's give prayerful support to its efforts and deliberations and give it a chance to be effective.

It is of great interest that as early as 1976, before this controversy came

to light at the convention in Houston, staff members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board covered the state in one-on-one efforts to hear what needs to be said. Even now Executive Secretary Earl Kelly and Mrs. Kelly are making attempts to get to as many areas of the state as possible.

These kinds of efforts can relieve many anxieties.

## Guest opinion . . .

## Partners for home missions

By C. B. Hogue

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The apostle Paul made a declaration of highest value: "You have been called to liberty." Imagine being free from the law and living in free grace! Yet that declared liberty is not license nor freedom for personal interest above that of the believer's fellow human beings; rather it calls for concern which reaches out to all persons in need, "Through love serve one another" (Gal. 5:13b).

The theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Home Missions, "How Far Love Reaches," is especially appropriate in light of this verse. The churches of the Southern Baptist Convention can join together to encourage members to become partners/servants in home missions through prayer experiences, involvement in missions awareness, personal witnessing, ministry and giving.

Why then should we join as partners/servants of love? Obviously, the task of the Home Mission Board is to lead Southern Baptists in evangelizing our land. As churches and Christian believers, we are partners with the Home Mission Board. As responsible servants in our communities we can reach out with love together.

According to recent sophisticated research from a variety of agencies and groups, our nation has approximately 156 million lost persons. While this figure may be argued by some, the reality of the multitude of lost per-

sons in our country mandates high priority concern for all those outside of the Christian experience.

How far does love reach in regard to these multitudes? In Matthew 9:35-38, Jesus gave expression to the matter when He saw the multitudes of his day. He had compassion on them. He expressed love in action. Jesus is our example. Wherever there was pain, sorrow, or need, our Lord acted in love to make persons whole and give them purpose for life.

Love is our motivation. The theme passage goes beyond a great freedom in Christ. That freedom actually places us in obligation to our fellow man. Such freedom loves its neighbors as itself; so, to be controlled by Christ's love is to love as He loved. This Christlike love is the force and motivation for service.

How far does love reach? Love reaches to communities that are changing culturally, racially, and socially. These areas have great need for ministry and witness. Love also reaches to rural areas where communities are going through cultural, racial, and social transitions.

If our churches, with encouragement through the Home Mission Board, state conventions, and associations, reached only seven percent of the lost people in our land, 10,920,000 would come to know Christ in a personal way.

If each new church had 592

members, we would need 18,446 new ministering churches. What a need for the outreach of love for these realities, plus the special love for those who have need of food, shelter, medical care, and social comfort.

Where does love in action end? There is no end to evangelizing, congregationalizing and ministering in a highly pluralistic setting. With population migration, emerging new lifestyle groups, continuing need for ministry among the aged, children of one parent families, divorced persons,

internationals and new immigrants, the task demands every one of us to become partners/servants through prayer, personal involvement, and giving.

You can do the humblest work with the ultimate freedom of spirit if you do it for the benefit of your brethren and under the blessed influence of love. There are no bounds to how far love reaches!

C. B. Hogue is executive director-treasurer for the Southern Baptist Convention of California.

## Educational vouchers

A subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives is holding hearings on the concept of educational vouchers. The subject is called The Equity and Choice Act of 1985 and has been dubbed as TEACH.

There are bills in each house of Congress supporting TEACH. In the House the bill is H.R. 3821, introduced by Pat Swindall, a Republican of Georgia. The Senate bill is S. 1876, introduced by Orrin Hatch, a Republican of Utah.

The concept is for the use of parents of disadvantaged children, who will be able to use the vouchers in either public or private schools. The average voucher would be about \$610.

All sorts of arguments have been and will be used to support this concept of giving federal money to the poor in order for their children to be able to enjoy the benefits of private schools if they want to. There are two problems that are basic. One is that it would take the money provided for the government by all of us of all religious persuasions and put it to use in private schools run by religious groups of different persuasions. The second is that the concept leaves out a great mass of people who would not qualify for using the concept but would also not be able financially to send their children to private schools. That seems to be a bad program.

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# Wear red in March: protest drug usage

## 'We got our eyes opened to the teens' world'

By Anne W. McWilliams

"Wear red this month. Arrange red flowers in church sanctuaries. Post a red ribbon at the church entrance, to show opposition to drugs and alcohol," suggests the Drug Research and Education Association of Mississippi.

Mayor Dale Danks of Jackson, in cooperation with DREAM and the Mayor's Youth Council, proclaimed February 28 Drug Awareness Day; Sunday, March 2, as Drug Awareness Sunday; and March as Drug Awareness Month.

DREAM and the Youth Council requested that churches across the state

take part in this by asking their members to wear something red, or to display red ribbons and/or red flowers.

DREAM has been distributing red ribbons to businesses and individuals who made donations of \$10 or more. Money collected for the ribbons is to be used to help defray expenses for a day of celebration for teens on April 4. Terri Ainsworth, assistant director of DREAM, said that this event will endeavor to involve hundreds of teens and to provide an example for others that teens can have a celebration without the use of drugs.

One Jackson mother who is wearing a red ribbon now has more awareness of what drugs can do than she would care to have. Last year she learned that her own 15-year-old son was using both drugs and alcohol. She recalls that at first she and her husband tried to deny the reality even to themselves, asking "Is it really that bad? Do we have any REAL evidence?" But then she said, "We learned that today parents have not only the right, but the responsibility, to be involved in every phase of their child's lives — from realistically looking at the child's behaviour to searching his room."

They talked to their pastor, Bill Causey, at Parkway Baptist Church; they talked to youth workers, social workers, drug counselors, and parents about similar situations. She remembers, "We got our eyes opened to what is happening in the world of teenagers, and kids in general."

This had been going on for months with their son, but they failed to recognize the symptoms. Problems which they had with him, they thought were just the regular "growing pains" of the teenager. Later, looking back, they remembered that he had often

come home after school and taken long naps. He would eat a lot at odd times of day or night, like at 11 p.m. His grades dropped, but were still mostly B's. He skipped some classes. He took a sudden interest in his mother's book on medicines. Though she didn't know it at the time, he was looking to see what effect various drugs would have on him.

"You can't always trust your child even when you think you can," she said. "He would say he was going to a meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, because he knew we

(Continued on page 10)

# The Baptist Record

## Executive Committee approves new budget

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A record \$136 million goal has been proposed for the Southern Baptist Convention's 1986-87 Cooperative Program unified budget.

The 69-member SBC Executive Committee voted Feb. 19 to recommend the Cooperative Program proposal to messengers who will attend the 1986 SBC annual meeting this June in Atlanta. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' means of funding missions, education, and ministry programs around the world.

The \$136 million Cooperative Program budget is divided into three categories. The first is \$126,630,000 for the first phase of the SBC basic operating budget, or operating funds supplied to 20 convention agencies, institutions, or programs. The second is \$5,874,000 allocated to meet capital needs of 12 agencies and institutions. The third is \$3,496,000 for the second phase of the basic operating budget.

The disbursement priority will be to supply the first phase of the operating budget, then to meet capital needs, and finally to enter the second phase of the operating budget, if revenue is available.

In conjunction with the budget proposal, the Executive Committee adopted a "special note" to emphasize Planned Growth in Giving, the stewardship campaign adopted in 1983 to support the SBC Bold Mission Thrust plan to present the message of Christ to the entire world by the year 2000.

The special note highlighted a four-part strategy which has been designed to lead Southern Baptists to reach their Planned Growth in Giving objectives, said Nelson Duke, pastor of First Church, Jefferson City, Mo., and chairperson of the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee, which formulated the budget pro-

posal. The strategies are as follows:

- "Church members increase personal giving to their church each year by some percentage of personal income.

- "Churches increase giving by some percentage through the Cooperative Program each year with the goal of having grown by at least 7.5 percentage points of their

undesignated budget receipts to missions support through the Cooperative Program; and a planned increase in giving to the (local) association.

- "State conventions continue to work toward a 50-50 division of undesignated Cooperative Program receipts between state convention and Southern Baptist Convention

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## Home Board appoints missionary writer

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved a missionary to write abortion alternative materials, reported on the status of Good News America Simultaneous Revivals, and elected three staff members in February board actions.

Fred Loper, a medical doctor from Oklahoma City, and his wife, Lavada, were appointed to write the board's first alternative-to-abortion materials and provide leadership in medical missions.

The materials are to be a result of Home Mission Board efforts to encourage the teaching of Christian sex education in churches and to inform them of abortion alternatives. The suggestions include ways churches can become involved in constructive prevention of abortions such as crisis pregnancy centers where women are counseled on abortion alternatives — keeping the baby or placing it for adoption.

Loper, the second board-appointed medical doctor, will also devise ways physicians can be used in home missions, said Wendell Belew, board mission ministries division director. The

board receives a number of requests from doctors who want to aid migrants, ghetto dwellers, and other indigents, but the current process prevents them from practicing outside of the state in which they are.

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Sells house to pay church debt

Yoon Young Jong (center) takes time from his work to visit a patient and family member at Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan, South Korea. A longtime hospital employee, Yoon is also a committed Baptist deacon — so committed he sold his house to help his church pay off a major debt. (BP) PHOTO By Don Rutledge

## Needed: Volunteers for Burkina Faso

Recruitment of a volunteer team of Mississippi Baptists to travel to Burkina Faso in West Africa is underway.

The many-faceted project will include construction of a dairy goat barn, animal and seed projects, nutrition and public health projects, and revivals and a missionary kids' retreat.

The revival and missionary kid retreat will be led by students recruited by Ken Watkins, Baptist Student Union director at Mississippi State University.

The others are being sought by the Mississippi Agri-Missions Fellowship which is sponsored by the state

Brotherhood Department.

Needed for the team will be a construction crew to build a dairy goat barn and other minor construction. This calls for a mason, an assistant mason, and a carpenter and his assistant.

A general agriculturist is needed for animal and seed projects. A nutritionist and a public health nurse are needed to work with a missionary nurse in survey and evaluation of projects. And a veterinarian will be working with animal health care projects.

The only slot filled at press time was that of veterinarian, Robert King, research vet for the State Board of

Animal Health.

The team is expected to be in the land-locked country, formerly known as Upper Volta, in late May or early June.

Cost of the trip, according to Bobby Redding, projects coordinator for Agri-Missions Fellowship, is about \$1,400. Those interested and qualified, should contact Redding at 1418 Huntcliff Way, Clinton, Miss. 39056, phone 924-6420.

Mississippians Larry and Cheryl Cox are missionaries to Burkina Faso. He is involved in a number of water projects. In most of the places where Baptists have been digging wells, churches are springing up.

# Student groups differ on seminary violations

By R. G. Puckett and Dan Martin

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Conservative Evangelical Fellowship, a student group at Southeastern Seminary here, has issued a "statement of apology" for "the intense level of negativity and mistrust" caused by its meeting with members of a Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee subcommittee.

The two-page CEF statement was distributed, Feb. 21 in response to three weeks of controversy which followed a Feb. 4 meeting between the campus organization and three of the four members of the subcommittee, which made an official visit to seminary officials Feb. 5.

The controversy spilled out of the seminary community and has resulted in a heated discussion on the floor of the SBC Executive Committee, meeting Feb. 17-19, in Nashville, Tenn., and into a meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association in Williamsburg, Va., Feb. 11-13.

It has included allusions to discipline, intimidation, and "blasting" from one side and accusations of betrayal from the other.

It also resulted in a "tense" meeting of the President's Forum, a monthly meeting between Southeastern President Randall Lolley and interested students. Seminary officials said strong opinions were expressed by both sides during the meeting, but no official action has been taken against any of those involved.

The nine-paragraph CEF statement, entitled "An Apology," is in response to a formal statement by the Southeastern Student Council; issued by student body President Ben Taylor of Macon, Ga., which expressed "great concern and dismay" about the visit between CEF and the subcommittee.

The statement identifies CEF as a "group of . . . students that agree that the Bible has complete authority and reliability, containing 'truth without any mixture of error'" and says the "purpose of this organization is to provide fellowship for students with conservative views . . ."

The statement includes "regret if the efforts of the . . . Peace Committee have been hindered because of misunderstanding between various groups" and regrets that "statements of good faith and intent" by some members of CEF have "for whatever reasons been misunderstood, ill conceived, or improperly channeled."

It also "regrets . . . the purpose of the meeting was misunderstood." It says, "The written statement of intent provided to the subcommittee clearly emphasized that theological balance in the classrooms was the main concern and purpose for the session. There was no desire on our part to attack the integrity or the Christian faith of our professors. We did not and do not wish to have any professor dismissed but only to promote balanced lectures or the addition of faculty who hold strong conservative biblical views."

The Southeastern Student Council issued a formal statement Feb. 11, which says, ". . . We . . . feel betrayed

in that guidelines were violated, that a hidden agenda was carried out and that no single elected representative of our student body was given the opportunity to present genuine concerns of the entire student population."

The Peace Committee guidelines on the visit of subcommittees to the six SBC seminaries and five other denominational agencies called for the subgroups to meet with the chief executive officer, the chief academic officer, and the trustee chairman. They did not discuss meeting with other organizations or individuals.

James Bradshaw of Virginia Beach, Va., president of CEF, in an interview with the *Biblical Recorder*, newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, confirmed he had set up the meeting, first talking with Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., a committee member, who referred him to Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla., subcommittee chairman, as the one to work out the arrangements.

The other two members of the subcommittee are Robert Cuttino of Lancaster, S.C., and William Poe of Charlotte, N.C.

According to Bradshaw, Henry set

the time of the meeting at approximately 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at the Plantation Inn, a motel near the seminary campus where members of the subcommittee were staying.

CEF officers insisted they were not trying to hold any secret meetings, but the student council statement disagreed sharply: "We pray for peace, but how can we enjoy peace by destroying opportunities for the development of trust and respect? It is a sad, sad day when the work of Christ cannot advance because of the need for power and politics in the lives of a few people."

"It is an admirable thing to be sincere in a cause; it is a travesty when one is sincerely wrong. What transpired here at Southeastern seminary represents a severe breach in the spirit of our Christian community."

In its statement, the student council closed with an affirmation of "... the members of the faculty and administration . . . as being knowledgeable promoters of higher theological education and also as being faithful representatives of our Lord Jesus Christ."

## SBC messenger process set for special study

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Alarmed by the potential for "chaos" at increasingly large Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings, the SBC Executive Committee has approved a special committee to study the "messenger participatory process" at the yearly gatherings.

The call for the special committee "arose out of concern for the cost involved in the annual convention and the effectiveness of conventions the size of Dallas and expected for Atlanta," said Dewey Presley of Dallas. The 1985 meeting in Dallas attracted 45,519 messengers, and some observers believe the Atlanta convention may attract similar numbers.

Presley moved the Executive Committee "request its officers to appoint a special committee to study messenger representation to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The Executive Committee approved the recommendation, along with an amendment by Sunnye Jones of Baton Rouge, La., which changed "messenger representation" to "messenger participatory process." Jones explained the amendment was needed to delineate clearly Southern Baptists' polity, which holds that, as autonomous Christians, messengers come from their churches but vote as their own consciences dictate.

Action on the study committee followed a report on the upcoming convention in Atlanta by Tim Hedquist, Executive Committee vice president for business and finance.

Hedquist described four major logistical problems which will be presented at the June meeting.

The first is a problem of moving people," Hedquist noted, explaining the main meeting hall in Atlanta is down two flights of escalators and that up to two hours may be required to fill and empty the hall for each session.

"This many people taxes a facility greatly," he added. "The most visible problem is restrooms. Obviously, enough phones are not available. Registration is much harder, as is just about everything people do at a convention."

Third is the problem of food service, he said. "Food in all cities is a major problem. Now our meetings involve so much business, and everybody is crowded. They don't want to give up their seat, so they stay in the building to eat." To rectify that situation somewhat, the convention has negotiated to use for food service 94,000 square feet of space previously contracted to another group.

Fourth is the problem of "carrying on business in multiple halls," at least four of which will be used in Atlanta, Hedquist said. "We've utilized all kinds of technical systems, but when it comes to a voice or hand vote, what do you do? Instantaneous voting mechanisms would cost \$1.8 million. That technology is being improved rapidly, and companies are willing to put us on the cutting edge. But it's still not easy."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

# capsules

## Evangelism meet tapes available

Those interested in obtaining tape recordings of the messages delivered at the recent Evangelism/Bible Conference at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, may contact Wayne Long Taping Service, 445 Bruin Ave., Pearl, Miss. 39208, for an order form.

## Reform bill would tax exempt groups

WASHINGTON (BP) — A provision in the House-passed Tax Reform Act would subject tax-exempt groups — including churches and church-supported institutions — to corporate income taxes on dividends earned if they own as little as five percent of the stock in any corporation.

According to Gary Nash, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, the provision most likely would adversely affect private colleges, universities, and hospitals. But, he warned, potentially all churches and church institutions and agencies might be losers if the provision were to become law.

As contained in H.R. 3838 — the bill passed late last year by the House of Representatives and now the subject of hearings in the Senate — the provision would likely inhibit large gifts of stock to church-related and other nonprofit institutions. It would also hurt institutional endowment funds in those cases where investments in a single corporation exceed the five percent threshold.

Nash said that while most churches and church agencies — including the Annuity Board — would not be affected by the provision for now, final passage of a tax bill containing it would set a "dangerous precedent." He likened its passage to the proverbial "camel's nose getting into the tent."

## Anti-Semitic work falls

New York, N.Y. (EP) — Anti-Semitic incidents directed against Jews and Jewish institutions in the United States decreased in 1985, according to the annual audit conducted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL).

The ADL audit revealed 638 reported incidents of vandalism against Jewish institutions and private Jewish homes in 34 states and the District of Columbia, an 11 percent decrease from the 1984 total of 715. The 638 incidents included six arson attacks, as opposed to nine in 1984; five attempted arsons, as against eight previously; three bombings, the same as in 1984; and three attempted bombings, as against one in 1984.

The report also noted 306 anti-Semitic assaults (such as beatings), threats and harassments (such as abusive mailings and telephone calls) against Jews and Jewish property, a 17 percent decrease from 369 in 1984.

Promises are like snowballs. They are easy to make but hard to keep.

## Brazil bans film on Mary

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (EP) — A French movie about the Virgin Mary has been banned from exhibition in Brazil at the request of the church. The film, "Hail Mary," has met with objections from the Roman Catholic Church in showings around the world.

President Jose Sarney's decision was prompted by a telegram from Pope John Paul II, and appeals from the country's Catholic leadership, as well as by his desire "not to go against the Christian spirit of the Brazilian people," according to a spokesman.

The film, by French director Jean-Luc Godard, sets the story of Christ's conception in modern times, and includes scenes in which the actress portraying Mary appears in the nude.

The decision to ban the film has been strongly criticized by Brazilian intellectuals, who oppose censorship. In the words of one official, the president had to choose between "pleasing 130 intellectuals or pleasing 130 million Brazilians."

## 1986 is year of Bible anniversaries

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — 1986 is a year of anniversaries associated with the Bible, according to the American Bible Society, which celebrates its 170th birthday this year.

The first copies of the King James Version of the Bible were produced 375 years ago. The KJV Bible was produced on the orders of a king who hoped to reconcile factions within the Church of England who were strongly divided over which version should be read from the pulpit. The reconciliation effort was unsuccessful, but the KJV Bible has been an enduring success.

Two Bibles celebrate their 20th anniversaries this year. The Spanish "Version Popular" is a common-language Spanish New Testament. The "Good News for Modern Man," an easy-reading English translation, is also 20 years old. Both were published with assistance from the American Bible Society.

## Superpotent cocaine poses new risks

An inexpensive, superpotent but extremely dangerous form of cocaine is hooking teenagers and young adults, according to a survey of callers to a national drug hotline.

The new form, called "crack," produces an almost instant "high," said Arnold M. Washton of 800-COCAINE hotline. It is smoked, usually in a pipe. Smoking cocaine is more likely to lead to addiction and to cause lung damage, brain seizures, and heart attacks.

In a random sample of 250 callers to the hotline, 28% were addicted to crack; nearly half of these persons were under 25. Washton said crack is sold in small glass vials at \$20 to \$30 — easily affordable by many teens.

— USA TODAY

# New method approved so new areas can qualify for SBC representation

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A new method under which churches in new areas can qualify for representation on Southern Baptist Convention boards was approved during the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

The plan — which creates a new bylaw and revises another — will be recommended to the annual meeting of the SBC in Atlanta, June 10-12, 1986.

Under the recommendation, participation in convention affairs is broadened, and a three-tiered set of requirements for representation is proposed.

Currently, Southern Baptists from conventions and fellowships with fewer than 25,000 members are ineligible to serve on any convention committees or on any of the boards of agencies, institutions or commissions.

The proposal creates a new Bylaw 31, which says: "To allow participation in the affairs of the convention, any member of a church who is eligible to be a messenger to the convention may be appointed teller, a member of the Credentials Committee, a member of the Committee on Resolutions, and a member of the convention's special committees."

The current Bylaw 31, which deals with "Representation from New States and Territories," would become Bylaw 32 and be designated, "Representation from Qualified States and Territories."

The new Bylaw 32 sets up a process through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches in a state or territory may make application for representation, specifying the application is to be presented to the Executive Committee at its February meeting containing information about membership. The committee will study the application, and, if it is approved, will be presented to officers of the SBC for action at the following convention.

Under the plan, when cooperating churches in an area reach a membership of \$15,000, they become eligible for representation on the SBC Executive Committee; the Committee on Committees; and the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

At 20,000 members, the churches are entitled to representation on the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, and Sunday School Board.

At 25,000 members, the churches can gain representation on the Annuity Board and on the commissions, institutions and standing committees, unless the individual agency's charter provides otherwise.

Following the adoption of the recommendation to change the bylaws, the Executive Committee asked the special study committee to continue to work, studying other matters in the convention bylaws concerning representation — New

England (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts) 71 congregations and 13,866 members; Hawaii, 42 con-

gregations and 13,483 members; Wyoming, 62 congregations and 12,187 members; and Minnesota-Wisconsin, 79 congregations and 12,049 members.

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## Senior Adult Corner

### Senior adult revival planned at Ridgecrest

The ministry among senior adults is the fastest growing segment of ministry in Southern Baptist life. In recognition of this, the **Baptist Record** is beginning a special column for senior adult news to be called the Senior Adult Corner. The **Baptist Record** welcomes items of interest concerning the activities of senior adults relating to their church affiliation.

#### Banquet held at First Church, Columbus

More than 100 senior adults and guests enjoyed the "Love Month Special" banquet held for the L.L.L. Club of First Church, Columbus. The fellowship hall was decorated in Valentine colors of pink, red, and white for this special occasion. The invocation was by N.E. Sumrall, club president; and the meal was capped off with the traditional cherry pie for dessert.

Entertainment for the evening included a musical concept by Alex Amaxopoulos on the trumpet and flugelhorn. He was accompanied by Wilson Henderson, minister of music, at the piano. There were also selections by Mrs. Kim Lytton of Starkville. All but one of her renditions were original compositions. She provided her own accompaniment on tape, piano, violin, and guitar.

Henderson concluded the program with inspirational thoughts on "The Case Against Vanilla." This was a fun evening for all who attended.

Alta Spivey, Reporter

A senior adult revival has been scheduled for April 20 to 23 by Ridgecrest Church, Jackson. The evangelist will be C. Z. Holland, a retired professor from Mississippi College. The music director will be Genter Stephens of New Orleans.

Owen Cooper, retired industrialist of Yazoo City, will deliver a testimony at one of the services. Cooper was one of the founders of Mississippi Chemical Corporation. He is a former

president of the Southern Baptist Convention and of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and he is a former chairman of the SBC Executive Committee and the Foreign Mission Board.

Paul Stevens is pastor of Ridgecrest Church. The senior adult choir at the church is called the Fellowship Choir. Joe Chapman is the director. The senior adult choir members will be a part of the revival choir during the evangelistic services, according to Stevens.

### Fuller Seminary cancels signs and wonders course

PASADENA, Calif. (EP) — The most popular course at Fuller Seminary — a course on "The Miraculous and Church Growth" — has been canceled in response to faculty concerns about the theology and academic quality of the course.

The course was initiated by Fuller's School of World Mission because of the frequency of "signs and wonders" in Third World churches, where many missionaries serve. The course attracted 279 students in its second year — the highest enrollment of any Fuller course. An estimated one-third of Fuller's student body is charismatic.

The course has strong supporters, as well as critics. More than 100 students have signed a petition in support of the course. Anthropology professor Charles H. Kraft called the course "life-changing." And Fuller student Diane Moore says she was miraculously healed of a degenerative eye disease after praying for healing in one of the course's "lab sessions."

The optional two-hour lab session, in which students exercised various spiritual gifts, was another source of controversy about the course. Opponents said healing missions should take place within a local church, not in a classroom.

### Church Growth Conference March 10-11, 1986

Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson for pastors, deacon chairmen, and Sunday School directors.



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# Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved until all circumstances and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record.

## Favors segregation

Editor:

As I read the recent letters arguing in favor of racial integration, I bemoaned that those dear brethren were (perhaps unwittingly) following the Roman Catholic tradition — not the path of the great Protestant Reformation — of which we as Baptists (and Americans) are heir.

The contrast is most apparent in the settlement of the New World.

Our Protestant ancestors settled North America. They brought their wives, established Christian homes, and segregated themselves from non-whites. This was no accident. They were English and England and only recently left the Church of Rome. Englishmen had a great love of nation and family (expressed so strongly in the teachings of Martin Luther) that they, like Luther, rebelled against the one-world internationalism of the pope.

On the other hand, Catholics settled South America. They brought no wives but mixed and married freely with non-whites. Their doctrines approved marriage with any race, provided both were Catholics.

Every American colony and state had laws against miscegenation.

I say this with no meanness of malice; but, dear brethren, look at Cuba, Brazil, and Latin America today. What a curse race-mixing has been. What disease, dependency, and deplorable conditions! Contrast this with America. What pride, promise, and prosperity!

Surely Acts 17:26 teaches that no man should join together what God himself has set asunder.

Yes, we have had recent changes in law; and it may not be popular to be for segregation nowadays. But isn't it a blessed assurance to know that the God who brought forth every living creature after its own kind (Gen. 1:24), who set the bounds of the habitation of the nations, and who loves us all — despite changes in some men — He changes not! (Mal. 3:6).

Don Hocutt  
Jackson

## Old-fashioned values

Editor:

Today, among us there is a "lost generation" of young people covering the years of 1960-1980. But yet, the current generation of 1980-2000 may be even more lost! Decent and responsible people should try to bring our young people back to old-fashioned morals and values. These proven values and principles have stood the tests of time. For instance, the Ten Commandments are basic to the survival of mankind in any form of government.

During the sixties a number of the musical stars did not elevate our morale values but brought them down. Then came the sexual revolu-

tion with the "live-ins," the drugs, the X-movies, the four-letter words, pornography, etc., which further decayed human behavior during the past 20 years.

In James, chapters 3 and 4, and in particular, James 3:3, we read the following words of Christ's half-brother: "Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they obey us."

Well, we have not killed the wild horses that are within us, but we have not bridled them either! This generation of young people is currently following undisciplined ideas of eat, drink, and be merry. Many have become irresponsible and are just "wandering" around.

What is needed is to bridle our horses and live by disciplined principles! We need to "throw out" the drugs, X-movies, the four-letter words, pornography, etc., and get back to high moral standards. We need to become more responsible people to ourselves and to others. Some of our young people are not involved, but peer pressure has a great influence on them!

Our young people need better guidance than they are currently receiving. The church with responsible leadership needs to challenge the present generation with "bridled" ideas and standards of living. We need to get on an upward or heavenly direction! God bless the last generation; they have been losers with their "unbridled" behavior.

The present generation of young people needs help and guidance desperately from us! Let us help them NOW.

Robert S. Leigh  
Jackson

## Senior citizen day care

Editor:

For two years we have been laboring with the idea of establishing a day care for senior citizens. According to David Brown, director of the Governor's Council on Aging, there is not such a center established in or out of another church in the State of Mississippi. At a meeting in our church, Brown stated that we have over 440,000 over the age 65 in Mississippi and that 44,000 of those are homebound and are not nursing home prospects. He also says that these figures will increase by 83 percent by the year 2000.

We plan to begin this Day Care in its embryo stage in the facilities that we already have, but we are in the process of purchasing an entire block adjacent to our church for building facilities to accommodate such a tremendously needed program.

If you can include an article pertaining to this along with an editorial supplying the need, maybe other churches can get a vision of one of the greatest opportunities of ministry that I see in our older churches and in our cities and towns.

Just thought I would touch base with you. We need your support and prayers as we try to pilot a program for well deserving citizens. Any information that you can pick up that will be helpful to us I will appreciate so much if you will put it in our hands. Thank you and the Lord's blessings.

Otis Seal, pastor  
Calvary Church  
Meridian

## Armstrong death

Editor:

Regarding your reporting the death of Herbert Armstrong in the issue of Feb. 13, it hardly seems noteworthy to Southern Baptists that they should report the demise of a cult leader.

My family does not appreciate or condone this type of journalism from our Christian leaders. Will you report the death of Anton LaVey, the Patriarch of the Church of Satan?

Praying that we'll have more spiritual articles.

Beth Dowdy  
Holly Springs

With all due respect, it is not who the person is but how well known he is that makes his death news. I have never heard of Anton LaVey, though I am sure that I should have. I have heard of Herbert Armstrong all of my life, and I am sure that many others have also. The Baptist Record majors on Southern Baptist news but does not restrict itself to that category. — Editor

are hearing the same propaganda that was used to promote the legalization of liquor. We were promised that all our financial ills would be resolved, Mississippi teachers would be paid a salary comparable to other states, and all our educational programs would have adequate funding. I was told that there were enough Southern Baptists in Mississippi to have defeated that referendum; so, you can say that Southern Baptists legalized liquor. Before you vote to legalize another vice or support a legislator or other official who favors it, please become informed of what it has actually cost the state and the harm it has done. Do not be gullible enough to believe another lie.

Allene Goodman  
Caledonia, Miss.

Very well put, and thank you for writing. — Editor

Most of us don't recognize opportunity until we see it working for a competitor. — Jay Huenfeld

Most of us never lose our tempers. However, we do occasionally mislay them.

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# "Race for His Kids"

## Fundraiser for Village

A group of Baptist churches in South and Southwest Jackson, along with several businesses and individuals, are sponsoring a fundraiser for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village and an evangelistic crusade both on March 22.

The "Race for His Kids," as it is being billed, is designed for any individual in the state to enlist sponsors who will make pledges to the participants. The first seven and a half miles will be walked and the last half mile is to be run into Sykes Park in South Jackson.

Registrants are to bring sponsor sheets and \$1 registration fees to Woodville Heights Church on Cooper Road at 11 a.m., March 22. The walk/race is noon to 6 p.m. At 6, Pete Carlson, a musician from Franklin, Tenn., will give a concert at the park, and from 6:30-8 p.m. there will be a free pizza dinner for all participants,

with pizza donated by Domino's Pizza, one of the sponsors.

At 8:15, still at the park, there will be an evening crusade, with Don Wilton, an evangelist who is a missionary kid from South Africa, preaching. Wilton is completing a doctorate in evangelism from New Orleans Seminary. Carlson will be guest musician; Mickey Henderson, music assistant at First Church, Jackson, will lead the music; and Raymond Ball, minister of music at Woodville Heights, will lead the choir.

At the end of the evening, a check will be presented to Paul Nunnery, director of the Baptist Children's Village, representing the total pledged during the day.

On the walk/race route, there will be six checkpoints at six of the sponsoring churches. According to race director, Cindy Malone, who is minister to youth and singles at Wood-

ville Heights Church, special events are planned at each checkpoint. Young people at the checkpoint churches are responsible for presenting the plan of salvation in some creative way.

Included among these presentations will be participation by Joe Shelton, an evangelistic singer from Tupelo; and Rich Malone, youth minister at Calvary Church, Tupelo.

Miss Malone, who directed a "Walk for Mankind" in Jackson for Project Concern International, said she had wondered, "What if we took this idea and did something for the glory of the Lord?"

She talked with Kermit McGregor, public relations director at the Village, and with Nunnery, gaining their endorsement of the project. Miss Malone said she hopes the project gains statewide support and becomes an annual event.



Carlson Wilton

Sponsors include Coca-Cola, Domino's, 94 TYX radio, C. B. Blaine, Dan Sherman, Charles Renfrow, and nine churches: Alta Woods, Hillcrest, Forest Hill, Woodville Heights, Southside, Daniel Memorial, McDowell Road, Oak Forest, and Van Winkle.

In case of rain, the race will be cancelled and the sponsor sheets are to be turned in to the Woodville Heights Church gym at 11 a.m. on race day and a crusade and concert will take place at Daniel Memorial Church at 8 p.m.

March 16 at 8:30 p.m. is the date for a kickoff rally at Daniel Memorial Church for youth ministers and youths.

Sponsor sheets are available from Miss Malone's office at 1109 Cooper Road, Jackson, Miss., 372-5443 or 373-8301.

## Two months' gifts exceed \$3,000,000

In February, Mississippi Baptists gave \$1,327,939 to world missions through their Cooperative Program, according to Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which channels the funds to their proper destinations.

The convention board sends 36 percent of the total this year to Southern Baptist causes outside the state and uses the rest for Mississippi Baptist causes which include undergirding the work of three Baptist colleges and the work of the Baptist Children's Village.

Total income for the first two months of the year is \$3,272,253, which is a 12.6 percent increase over gifts given during the first two months of 1985.

Pro rata budget for the first two months of 1986 would be \$3,091,666. This means that Mississippi Baptists are running ahead of budget projections by a total of \$188,511.

Total budget for 1986 is \$18,550,000.

## Controversial bylaw changes recommended

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Messengers to the 1986 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will be asked to make changes in a controversial bylaw when they meet June 10-12 in Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

Bylaw 16, which concerns the election of the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees, and its interpretation by SBC President Charles F. Stanley, is at the center of a continuing controversy which erupted during the 1985 annual meeting in Dallas.

During the Dallas meeting, Stanley, on advice of parliamentarian Wayne Allen of Memphis, Tenn., ruled the report of the Committee on Committees nominating the 52-members of the Committee on Boards would not be amended by nominations from the floor. The ruling set off near-pandemonium at the convention and has resulted in the filing of twin lawsuits in federal and state courts in Atlanta.

During its February meeting, the SBC Executive Committee adopted a recommendation from its bylaws workgroup which would change the wording of the bylaw to allow nominations from the floor, but would prevent the nominations of an alternate slate of candidates.

Under the change, the Committee on Boards will continue to be nominated by the Committee on Committees, but two sentences are added: "Further nominations may be made from the floor. No messenger shall be allowed to nominate more than one person at one time for election to the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees."

During the discussion, Bylaws Workgroup Chairman John Sullivan of Shreveport, La., said the workgroup asked convention attorney James P.

Guenther "to come up with language to bring our bylaw into conformity with Robert's Rules of Order. We feel this (the proposal) is the clearest language we could find."

The former two-term first vice president of the SBC told committee members the 1986 Committee on Order of Business has agreed to schedule discussion of revisions to Bylaw 16 on the annual meeting program in advance of the report of the Committee on Committees.

The workgroup recommendation was amended by member Wallace E. Jones of Bridgeton, Mo., to add the words "at one time" to the second sentence, making it read: "No messenger shall be allowed to nominate more than one person at one time for election to the Committee on Boards . . ."

Jones explained the intent of the motion was to allow a messenger to make a nomination "and then be able to go to the back of the line" to wait a turn to make another nomination.

Jones' amendment passed 28 to 24 with 10 abstentions, Wenger said.

After the discussion, Drake moved to table the recommendation "because of the close division" on the two amendments. Although it was seconded, the motion received only one vote.

The recommendation passed with only two negative votes.

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

Kind words do not cost much. They never blister the tongue or lips. We never heard of any trouble arising from this quarter. Though they do not cost much, yet they accomplish much. They make other people good-natured. They also produce their own image on men's souls, and a beautiful image it is. — Megiddo Message.

## Four out of ten adults attend church weekly

PRINCETON, N.J. (EP) — Four adults in every 10 attend religious services in a typical week, according to a recent poll. Of those surveyed in 1985, 42 percent indicated that they had attended church or synagogue in the last week.

Churchgoing reported in polls has varied slightly between 40 and 43 percent since 1969. All-time high church attendance in polls was reported in 1955 and 1958 at 49 percent; all-time low attendance was recorded in 1940 at 37 percent.

The latest survey showed that Catholics were more faithful churchgoers than Protestants (53 percent to 42 percent), and that church attendance increased with age and education level achieved. Church or synagogue membership is claimed by roughly 71 percent of Americans.

## Stanley asks assistance in selecting committees

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Charles F. Stanley has asked for assistance in selecting nominees for four 1986 SBC appointive committees.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, made his request in an open letter to "all state convention executives, elected persons and all others."

The very important task of presenting the 1986 Committee on Committees nominees, as well as those to serve on the Resolution Committee, Credentials Committee and Teller Committee is underway," he wrote. "We would count it a blessed favor and a great service to our Lord if you would prayerfully assist us in this effort."

As convention president, Stanley is charged with the responsibility of appointing members to the four committees in consultation with the SBC's two vice presidents — W. Winfred Moore, first vice president, of Amarillo, Texas; and Henry Huff, second vice president, of Louisville, Ky.

Many hundreds of names are submitted each year from various sources, and the winnowing process is

crucial and tedious," Stanley said. "We want only that which will be God's will to his glory."

He asked for "names of pastors and lay people from your state convention that you feel would serve true to God's Word and their assignment," adding, "these persons must be above reproach in their moral life and Christian demeanor."

Information needed for each name submitted includes telephone number and address of both the person's home and church, the church's Cooperative Program giving percentage and the church's baptism figures and resident membership. Stanley also said he needs to know whether or not the proposed persons plan to attend the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta in June and each individual's length of time in his or her church and state.

The information should be sent to Stanley in care of First Baptist Church, 754 Peachtree St., NE, Atlanta, GA 30365.

We lie loudest when we lie to ourselves.

Mistakes are lessons of wisdom.

## New evidence supports story of Queen of Sheba

JERUSALEM, Israel (EP) — The visit of the Queen of Sheba to Israel's King Solomon, described in I Kings Chapter 10, has often been dismissed as historically impossible. Although evidence of the land of Sheba exists, archaeologists say ruins of that culture date back only to the 7th century B.C., three centuries after Solomon's rule in Israel.

But new archaeological evidence has indicated that Sheba may be older than previously believed. This support for the biblical account of the Queen of Sheba comes from James A. Sauer, an archaeologist at the University of Pennsylvania, who has headed a project in the area of ancient Sheba for the past five years.

Sauer's hypothesis is supported by an excavation in Wadi al-Jubah, a dry valley about 25 miles south of the remains of Sheba's capital city Marib. Archaeologists have discovered broken pottery near timber that is from the 13th century B.C., according to carbon-dating. Another dig has produced pottery and evidence of a copper foundry dating to the 7th century B.C., and researchers still have several yards to go before reaching to deepest and oldest layers of their site.

Sauer believes that further excavations will show that Sheba was a well-developed trading nation during Solomon's reign, and could have sent its queen to visit a neighboring monarch.

## Off the Record

A young author asked Stephen Leacock what tricks of the trade he employed when he sat down to write. "No tricks," said the humorist. "I seat myself at a desk, wait until an idea occurs and then jot it down." You make writing seem so simple." "Writing is simple," replied Leacock. "It's the occurring that's difficult."

# Men's Conference will feature series of ministry groups

The Baptist Men's Conference, set for March 22, at Parkway Church, Jackson, will feature a series of ministry group conferences at 10 a.m. (after coffee and donuts at 9:30); a banquet at 11:30 (tickets are available from the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, 968-3800 for \$6 per person); and then a general session at 1 p.m., featuring Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The ministry group conferences are explained in the surrounding stories. Participants may choose any conference he or she wishes to participate in.

## Church renewal fellowship

Pastors and church members are all invited to the Church Renewal Fellowship meeting. Doyle Pennington, a former Mississippian, now with the Home Mission Board, will begin at 10 a.m. by sharing the latest information on new materials available for the Church Renewal Journey. Following this 15 minute conference, he will lead an hour's conference for people who want to learn more about the Church Renewal Journey.

For those already on the Church Renewal Journey, a joint conference will be held on the Lay Ministry Weekend and the Stewardship Weekend. Danny Prater, pastor, First Church, Inverness, will lead the Lay Ministry Weekend conference, and Grant Shipp, layman and renewal coordinator, Ocean Springs, will lead the Stewardship Weekend conference.

The purpose of renewal is to awaken and equip Christians to express their faith in Christ by penetrating their everyday worlds with the message and ministry of Christ. It calls churches to deeper commitment to Christ, as Lord over every area of church life. Renewal helps set a church strategy for accomplishing this by motivating the laity to do meaningful ministry within the existing church.

## Brotherhood overview

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# Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

## The day of the wedding

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"I had the best father and mother in the world," she told me. "They were so good to us, and they worked hard . . ." Her father, the late Plak Mekmok, was a police captain, she said, whose salary was not large. Her mother, Komkum, grew chickens and a garden. On Saturday, my friend promised, when we went to her nephew's wedding, I would meet her mother and some of her nine brothers and sisters.

Early Saturday the maids, Oy and Sombat, brought hot water for my coffee, and a fruit called lamood. They had washed and ironed my clothes, but I decided to wear the aqua crocheted dress I had bought at the Floating Market. For these maids' service, Thumchai pays their parents 1,600 bahts a month (27 bahts equals \$1) and gives the girls room and board.

Rosama, 24, Thumchai's daughter, left in her yellow Volkswagen. In veterinary training, she had to go that day to operate on a water buffalo. Her sister, Dorasa, studying pharmacy in a university in the south, called and said she could not go with us either.

Thumchai drove Joan and me across the city to her mother's house, where we bought fried coconut patties wrapped in banana leaves from a woman cooking alongside the street. With these, we drank hot tea, reddish in color, mixed with coconut juice and tasting like hot chocolate.

Soon Somboon arrived in an air-conditioned van to transport us to the wedding which would be in the country to the west of Bangkok. He is the brother who is chairman of the Department of Community Development, Ministry of the Interior. With us in the van would be a sister, Vanida, and her daughters, Titi, 12, and Tutu, 8. Also there would be another sister, Quanta, and her family. Already I knew Quanta and Suchib Tripitak, and could hardly wait to see them, for they are graduates of Jackson State and were married in Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, by the pastor, Joe Tuten. Their son, Tang Rath (Rod), 5, was born in Jackson. Quanta had written me that she works for Unocal Oil Company in Bangkok.

The bride's house was a large one, painted dark barn red, built on stilts, and partly surrounded by a sugar cane patch. Down the road a little way, the groom's family formed a procession, bearing gifts of food to the bride's house. Two men at the head of the line held tall stalks of cane. "You are seeing an old-style Buddhist country wedding," Quanta told me.

Leaving our shoes on the steps, we went inside the house and sat on straw mats, as did all the guests. The mat

for the bride and groom was pink, decorated with a peacock design. The bride, Pianpem Khonkan, wore a long dress of gold silk and lace, gold jewelry, a gold comb in her black hair. The groom, Surachit Ploiboot (son of Sookee, Thumchai's sister), wore a white uniform with gold trim.

I kept thinking that a monk would come and perform a ceremony, but no monk was present. A bowl was set in front of the couple, containing grains or seeds. Guests would pick up the seeds and sprinkle them about in the bowl, to signify, "I wish you a long life and prosperity," and also, I suppose, "I wish you many children."

The groom presented to the bride's family a gift of money and jewelry. The bride's father counted the money, and closely examined the jewelry. Guests who wanted to bring gifts of money to the couple then did so, placing it in a bowl set before them on a pink pillow. In return, the couple gave gifts to the guests. Mine was a plush bath towel.

Afterward, we and many others ate lunch under striped awnings set up in the yard of the bride's house. During the afternoon we drove to the Bridge on the River Kwai, of novel and movie fame. There we heard that plans were being made for a December 40-year reunion of families of men who died in World War II, building that bridge.

At Ratchaburi, we visited the home of Sompat, Thumchai's brother who is a doctor and who owns a clinic in that town. Thumchai's early ambition was to be a doctor, she said, but instead she worked to help this brother become a doctor. Also she assisted most of her other brothers and sisters with their education. All have university degrees and several studied in the U.S. One is an engineer in Saudi Arabia; one is manager of a bank; two or three are teachers. At the doctor's house, we changed to more dressy outfits for the evening wedding festivities. I had bought a long pink and gold Thai silk skirt to wear.

Back at the bride's house, she and the groom were seated on an outdoor platform. Musicians were playing. The governor of the state was a guest at the feast which began shortly, and Thumchai seated Joan and me at his table. The governor and others made speeches and delivered good wishes to the couple. Pianpem wore a long white dress that night, and she and Surachit had white cords tied about their heads, and a connecting cord tying the two together. Buddhists, I have read, consider the head the most sacred part of the body. The symbolism of the cords is that of tying the spirits of the two heads together. It's a bit more complicated than that, but that is the general idea. We ate for hours, while the bride and groom, who must have been weary, walked about greeting guests. Our arrival back in Bangkok was late, late.

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(Next week: Baptist missions in Bangkok.)



The bride, Pianpem Khonkan, and groom, Surachit Ploiboot, (kneeling beside the pillow), during a Buddhist wedding ceremony in Thailand, receive a gift from the groom's grandmother, Komkum Mekmok.



In the evening the bride and groom are seated on a platform. Both wear white. White cords are tied about their heads, and a connecting cord ties the two together. Rawiwan Thumchai, right, and her mother present a gift and their best wishes.



Anne McWilliams, assistant editor, the *Baptist Record*, and Rosama Thumchai, daughter of Rawiwan Thumchai, pose with a little white dog, Boo-fi; the two maids, Oy and Sombat; and a crying puppy, in front of the Thumchais' house in Bangkok.

## Her words came back to help her

BEIRUT, Lebanon — A staff member of the Baptist Center for Mass Communication in Beirut was scanning the dial of her transistor radio for news during one evening of intense fighting. Over a Cyprus radio station, she heard a broadcast that had been produced at the center — with her as the speaker. "A quite peace flooded my soul and tears of release fell to the floor," she recounted. "The Lord was using my own words to minister to my own spirit." Notes Pete Dunn, executive director of the center, "... lest we forget, in our ministering, we are being ministered to."

Suchib Tripitak kneels to set an offering of food at the gate of his home for a Buddhist monk who stops by each morning to receive the food for himself and the poor.

Thursday, March 6, 1986

# Men's Conference will feature series of ministry groups

The Baptist Men's Conference, set for March 22, at Parkway Church, Jackson, will feature a series of ministry group conferences at 10 a.m. (after coffee and donuts at 9:30); a banquet at 11:30 (tickets are available from the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, 968-3800 for \$6 per person); and then a general session at 1 p.m., featuring Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The ministry group conferences are explained in the surrounding stories. Participants may choose any conference he or she wishes to participate in.

## Church renewal fellowship

Pastors and church members are all invited to the Church Renewal Fellowship meeting. Doyle Pennington, a former Mississippian, now with the Home Mission Board, will begin at 10 a.m. by sharing the latest information on new materials available for the Church Renewal Journey. Following this 15 minute conference, he will lead an hour's conference for people who want to learn more about the Church Renewal Journey.

For those already on the Church Renewal Journey, a joint conference will be held on the Lay Ministry Weekend and the Stewardship Weekend. Danny Prater, pastor, First Church, Inverness, will lead the Lay Ministry Weekend conference, and Grant Shipp, layman and renewal coordinator, Ocean Springs, will lead the Stewardship Weekend conference.

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## Hams

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Hams Fellowship need to attend this meeting for a time of fellowship, election of officers, and a visual presentation of work with the disaster relief unit in Pascagoula and Mexico. Goals will be set for the plan of work for this next year.

## Retirees on Mission

David Bunch of the Home Mission Board and James Cecil of the Foreign Mission Board will be guest speakers for the Retirees on Mission meeting. Says John Sproles of the organization, "The Lord has commissioned us to be missionaries for him. One of the ways we can better equip ourselves to do his work is by taking advantage of every training session."



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by anne washburn mc williams

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# Executive Committee approves 1986-87 SBC budget allocations

(Continued from page 3)  
ministries.

The Southern Baptist Convention to seek by A.D. 2000 or sooner to allocate 75 percent of the SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget to home and foreign mission ministries."

The 1986-87 Cooperative Program allocation budget proposal "represents a first effort toward achieving the Southern Baptist Convention part of the strategy," Duke said. He noted the combined allocation for the SBC Foreign and Home Mission Boards is 69.88 percent of the basic budget, up from 69.64 in 1985-86.

Against an overall increase of five percent for the first phase of the operating budget, the two missions boards both were allocated 5.36 percent gains. In that phase, the Foreign Mission Board's allocation was raised from \$60,300,000 to \$63,532,700. The Home Mission Board's portion went from \$23,690,500 to \$24,960,600.

As a percent of the first phase basic operating budget, the Foreign Mission Board's allocation climbed from 50 percent to 50.17 percent, and the Home

Mission Board's share grew from 19.64 to 19.71.

Other allocations from the first phase basic operating budget and their percent of increase include SBC operating budget — the Executive Committee, \$1,778,400 (4 percent increase); Annuity Board, \$999,200 (4 percent); Southwestern Seminary, \$7,533,242 (6.58 percent); Southern Seminary, \$5,597,924 (5.75 percent); New Orleans Seminary, \$4,230,657 (4.59 percent); Southeastern Seminary, \$3,966,352 (2.84 percent); Golden Gate Seminary, \$2,479,411 (3.44 percent); Midwestern Seminary, \$2,136,814 (4.33 percent);

Also Southern Baptist Foundation, \$275,500 (4.75 percent increase); American Baptist Seminary Commission, \$244,500 (2.52 percent); Brotherhood Commission, \$924,000 (4 percent); Christian Life Commission, \$772,800 (4 percent); Education Commission, \$461,300 (3.99 percent); Historical Commission, \$432,000 (4.85 percent); Radio-Television Commission, \$5,237,600 (3.96 percent); Stewardship Commission, \$431,300 (4 percent); Public Affairs Committee,

\$435,700 (4.01 percent); and Planned Growth in Giving promotion, \$200,000 (new item).

The \$5.9 million capital needs budget calls for disbursements to Golden Gate, New Orleans, Southeastern, and Southern seminaries for capital improvements to their campuses and for funds to be channeled to the seven occupants of the new SBC Building in Nashville — Seminary External Education Division, Southern Baptist Foundation, Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Stewardship Commission, and Executive Committee.

The second phase of the basic operating budget is designed to distribute almost \$3.5 million to the recipients of the first phase, in the same proportion in which they received first phase disbursements.

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

## Wear red in March: protest drugs

(Continued from page 3)  
would permit that on a week night." But actually he became less and less involved in church-related activities.

His taste in music, his mother remembers, went "from rock to hard rock. His friends did not change radically — the same ones he had been seeing for several months, plus a few new ones. He still did family things."

Then one Friday night he came home drunk. The following week, she opened a letter written to him, thinking she might find out who illegally sold him liquor. But she learned a lot more, about his involvement with both marijuana and alcohol.

Though absolutely stunned with her find, she did not reveal the knowledge to her son. She and her husband prayed and cried and planned and talked, she says, for the next six weeks, without their son's knowing. Then they drove him to Atlanta, to admit him to a non-profit drug treatment program for ages 12-25. They told him, on pretext, they were going for an employment interview and needed him along for a family evaluation.

"We all had to face the fact that drug usage is a family problem and that we as a family had to deal with it."

Recently, when the son was ready to return to Jackson, his mother said, "For me, it's like being pregnant again, his coming home. It will be like a new birth, a starting all over again.

"Because he made a wrong decision does not mean we've got a bad child. But because of his bad decision, he will be chemically dependent the rest of his life. He will always have to say 'No' to drugs and alcohol, because if

he doesn't, he will be back to the place where he was in the beginning of the treatment program.

"It only takes four months for a teenager to become chemically dependent, where it would take an adult ten years."

At least 90 percent of suicides, she stressed, of young people, ages 16-25, are drug-related — overdoses, car accidents . . .

She has some strong advice for parents: "Get education about drug usage, what is being used, what are the symptoms, know exactly where your children are, who they are with, what they are doing. Exercise your

rights and responsibilities as parents. Ask questions and be suspicious if you are the least uneasy about the answers. Do not be intimidated by your child. We are taken in by the 'Everyone else is doing it' syndrome, even when we don't want to be."

"You made them go to school and to the dentist. If you learn they are on drugs, drug abuse is a curable disease. Help your child."

Anyone desiring further information regarding drug abuse among teenagers, or concerning the case cited here, may contact the office of the Parkway Baptist Church in Jackson.

## Home Board appoints missionary writer

(Continued from page 3)  
licensed, he explained.

Evangelism committee members reported that all state Baptists conventions and fellowships, about 90 percent of Southern Baptist district associations and nearly 70 percent of SBC churches are scheduled to participate in the Good News revivals set to kick-off next month. HMB evangelism leaders also anticipate 10 million Scripture portions will be distributed by the end of the six-week emphasis.

In staff appointments, board members elected Fred White associate vice president of the evangelism section. White, who was promoted from director of the evangelism development division,

replaced Joe Ford, who resigned last year to become co-pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz.

Charles J. Williamson Jr. was promoted from system analyst to director of data processing services, a new position. Timothy Dale Hill of Baldwyn, Miss., was elected assistant director of the board's ethnic church growth department.

In other personnel matters, the executive committee appointed one missionary, two missionary associates, and a church planter apprentice. The committee also approved financial assistance for one student mission pastor, one state administrator, one language pastor, and 10 mission pastors.

## Court upholds regulation of adult movie theaters

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the right of cities to impose zoning restrictions on adult theaters, provided such establishments are not banned altogether.

In a 7-2 decision announced Feb. 25, the high court held the municipalities do not do violence to the First Amendment's free speech clause by imposing "a form of time, place and manner regulation" on adult theaters but stop short of outlawing them.

The decision, written by Justice

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CONTACT: Rev. John Adkerson, Staff Evangelist, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 29171, Atlanta, Ga. 30329. Telephone number 404/934-1613 or 447-6382

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## Devotional

# The higher view

By Doyle Cummings  
Text: Psalm 121

A few years ago our family vacationed in the Smoky Mountains. Above other things, we were most impressed by the awesomeness of God's creation. Especially were we struck by the imposing, indestructible appearance of those mountains. Yet one must always remember that God is bigger and better, and that he spoke those mountains into existence.



Cummings

As we observed those mountains, we discovered that the lower we were, geographically, the smaller the distant mountains seemed. On the other hand, the higher we got, geographically, the larger and more imposing the mountain appeared. This immediately transferred itself into theology for me. The lower one gets spiritually, the smaller his God will seem, distant, unable to meet immediate needs. Conversely, the higher one gets spiritually, the closer God seems, the bigger he seems. One just gets a better view of God from the vantage point of spiritual mountains.

Sometimes as we drove, the mountains even disappeared from sight for a moment, hidden by a nearby hill while we were in the valley. Yet, we always knew the mountain was there! As we travel though life, sometimes we get in the valleys, and the "hills" obscure our view of God. We must never lose sight of the fact that God is always there. We just have to get out of the valley and over that "hill" that has kept us from seeing God.

Our automobile kept us moving along, through those valleys, over those hills, but one thing was crucial — an adequate supply of gasoline. Periodically, we found it necessary to pull into a service station for refueling. Now, our faith keeps us moving through the spiritual valleys and hills. Just as with the automobile, your faith and mind need refueling. We need to refuel every morning as we talk with God, but we need a major check-up at least once a week. That check-up is at our place of worship each Sunday.

Doyle Cummings is pastor, First, Itta Bena.



## Mountain Creek exceeds goal

**Mountain Creek Church, Rankin Association**, exceeded its 1985 Lottie Moon Offering goal of \$500.00. Total receipts were \$612.00. The offering was promoted by WMU, Betty Richardson, director. Lighted Christmas tree showed progress, each bulb worth \$5.00. The star on top was lighted when the goal was reached. Pictured are some who made the goal reaching possible. Eddie Pilgrim is pastor.

## "Moment of silence" is struck down

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)** — New Jersey's 1982 law requiring a "moment of silence" in public schools has been struck down by a federal appeals court as a violation of "separation of church and state."

The law, which required a period of "quiet and private contemplation or introspection" at the start of each school day, was intended to promote religion, according to the court. Although the law made no reference to prayer or religious activity, the court ruled that it was intended to circumvent the U.S. Supreme Court's ban on state-sponsored religious observances.

## Seminary will celebrate Founders' Day

Mississippi Baptist Seminary will hold its annual Founder's Day Celebration March 15 at Farish Street Baptist Church, Jackson. Theme is "Remembering and Responding."

The program will begin at 10 a.m. and will include slide presentations, art exhibits, verbal history, and workshops.

The seminary is a cooperative joint venture of National and Southern Baptists. Richard Brogan is president; Hickman Johnson is dean of academic affairs and pastor of the host church.

For more information, contact the seminary at 944-1741.

## Southern names first black prof

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)** — T. Vaughn Walker has become the first black person to join the faculty of Southern Seminary.

Walker, who is pastor of First Gethsemane Baptist Church in Louisville, has been named assistant professor of church social work, announced C. Anne Davis, dean of the Louisville seminary's Carver School of Church Social Work.

The new professor will teach courses on the black family and the black church.

What a blessing it would be if we could open and shut our ears as easily as we do our eyes.

Thursday, March 6, 1986

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

## Staff Changes

Tommy Kelly has resigned Blackwater Church, Kemper Co., to accept the position of associate pastor

and staff evangelist at Parkway Church, Chickasaw. Kelly and his wife, Pam, are available to do concerts, revivals, retreats, etc. They can be reached at 902 N. Jackson St., Houston, MS 38851 or phone 456-4330.

Justin Morgan has accepted the pastorate of Hickory Grove Church, Sumrall, moving from First Church, Columbia as the associate pastor.

Tony Henry has accepted the call as pastor to Laurel Hill Church, Neshoba. He is the former pastor of Steele Church, Scott.

Daniel Lee has accepted the position as minister of music and activities at First Church, Terry. Gowan Ellis is pastor.

Gregg Thomas has accepted the pastorate of First Church, Tutwiler. He moves there from Chesterville Church, Tupelo. He and his wife, Lisa, are natives of the Tupelo area and he is a graduate of Blue Mountain College. Thomas will soon complete requirements for the M. Div. degree from Luther Rice Seminary. In addition to other pastorates and staff positions he has served as interim BSU director at Itawamba Junior College.

David Webb, a native of Forest, recently joined the staff of the Potosi Southern Baptist Church of Potosi, Missouri as youth pastor. Upon his graduation from Southwestern Seminary, he served as summer youth minister at Forest, and was ordained on Feb. 16. He is married to the former Lisa Shivers of Pearl.

Michael L. Carter, native Mississippian, formerly of Natchez, has joined the staff of Southwest Baptist Church in St. Louis, Mo. as minister of music. He was ordained to the gospel ministry on Feb. 9.

Carter graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a bachelor of music education degree and a master of music degree in voice. He served as minister of music at Immanuel Church, Natchez, and later at Morgantown Church, Natchez. He also served as interim pastor at Pioneer Church, Wilkinson County, and as minister of music at First Church, New Augusta. Carter is married to the former Patti Pecher; they are the parents of two children.

Zion Hill Church near Liberty has called Jamie Stewart as music director. He is a native of Gillsburg community and is a freshman at Southwest Mississippi Junior College, Summit.

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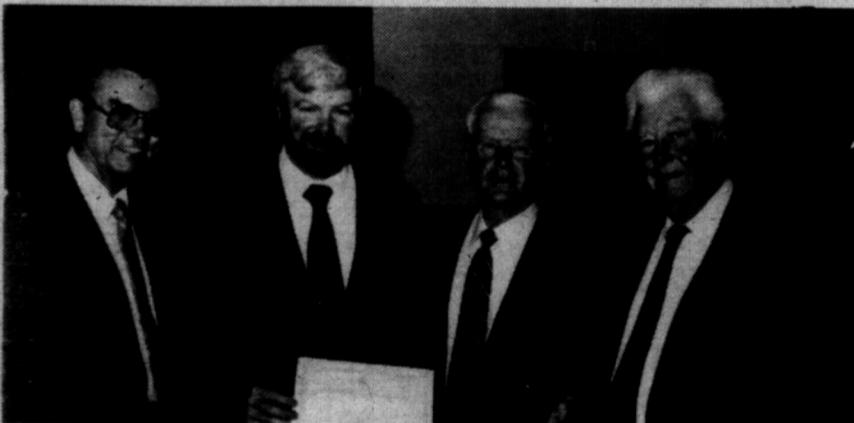
**Martin Church (Union County)** had a recognition service for GAs and Acteens. Their theme was "Oh What A Moment."

Front row are queens crown bearers, left to right, Kelly Orgeron, Beverly Freeman, Andrea McMiller, Angela Robbins, Natasha Lanier and Samantha Ballard. Second row, Girls in Action earning Mission Adventure Badges are Amy Freeman and Jennifer McMiller. Third row, Kathy McMiller, Kim Browning, Katie Orgeron, Stacy Kidd, and Hope Moody. Fourth row, Acteens, queen Lisa Taylor, queen Michele Hall, queen and queen with scepter Ginger Grubbs, queen Karen McMiller, queen Tonya and Sonja Robbins.



**New Prospect Church, Iuka,** held deacon's ordination, Feb. 2. Jerry Swimmer led the charge to the church candidates and Tim Pittman preached the ordination sermon. Olen Nunley, chairman of deacons, led the ordination prayer. Eugene Walden is pastor. Pictured, left to right, are Eugene Walden; Ronny Stricklen, Danny Davis, and Richard Ortner, deacons ordained; and Olen Nunley.

## Names in the News



**Bill Shumpert**, second from left, was ordained as deacon by Richmond Church, Tupelo, Jan. 12. Pictured, second from right, is Billy Shumpert, giving his son the ordination certificate. At far right is Graves Ruff, chairman of deacons, presenting the Bible. Far left is Dave Smith, pastor. The church had two former pastors, Marvin Murphy and Robert Rogers, to serve on the ordaining council.

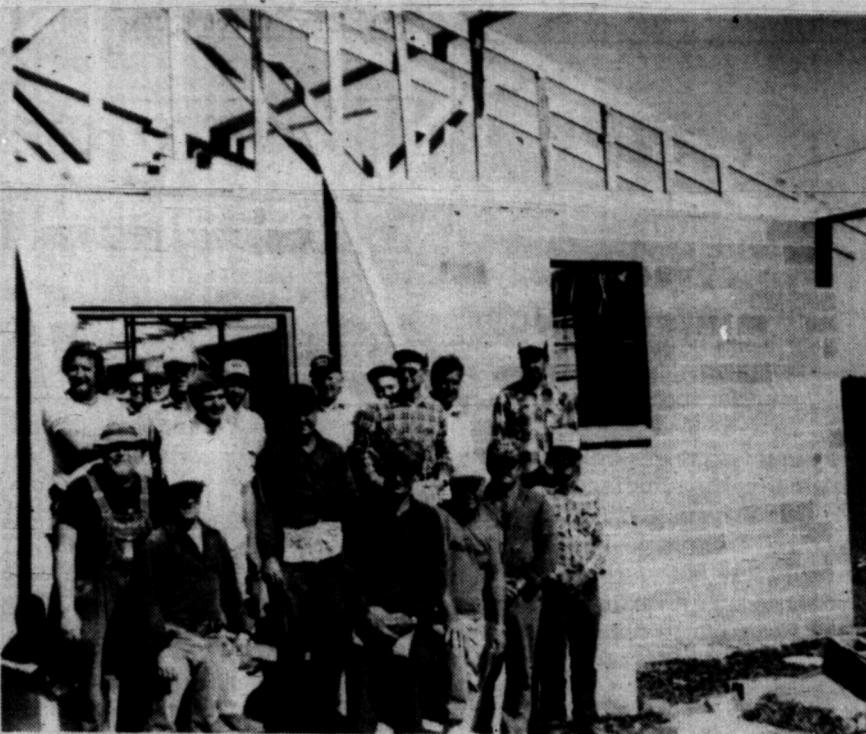
**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — L. L. Collins**, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, died Feb. 18 in St. Joseph's Hospital, in Fort Worth, Texas, of complications after a stroke. Collins, who joined the state convention staff in 1981, was attending Scholars' Week at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth when he was hospitalized.

**Johnny Beaver**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Beaver of Forest, is available for supply. Beaver is 16 years old and has been speaking since age 8. He was licensed to the ministry, Feb. 23.

He can be contacted at Rt. 4, Box 546, Forest, MS 39074 telephone 469-2665.

**James Blakeney**, a youth/recreation consultant with the Louisiana Baptist Convention, was the guest speaker at William Carey College's alumni luncheon during homecoming activities Feb. 15.

Blakeney, a 1966 alumnus, addressed the alumni crowd, which included honorees of the class of '36, the Alumnus of the Year — Lowell Broom, and former members of the Delphinian, Thalian, and Litaean social clubs, on life experiences for which college prepares and does not prepare its students.



Twenty-four men from eight churches in the Lamar Baptist Association gathered at Oloh on Feb. 8 for a work day. The men helped Oloh on its new fellowship hall/education building. This helping ministry is a new ministry of the Lamar Baptist Brotherhood. The Brotherhood has initiated a plan for helping sister churches with construction needs.



**Coldwater Church, Philadelphia,** burns note Feb. 2. The note that was made for the complete siding and finishing less than a year ago, was paid in full. Pictured are R. B. Moore, Mary Ethel Turner, Don Hardin, Buck Stovall, Bob Burns, and Rueben Moore. Back row is Barron Pilgrim, pastor.



**Union Church, Mize,** recently dedicated its new education annex. The cost of the building which contains classrooms, library, crier room, pastor's study and a combination church office, was \$150,000. Much of the money was raised in a Together We Build Campaign a few years ago, states Maxwell Price, pastor.

Pictured, left to right, front row, are Billy Ballard, director of missions, Smith Association and former pastor; Price; Mrs. H. B. Ashley and Mrs. Nellie Glisson, building committee. Back row, Author Johnson, Magee, contractor; Windell Kennedy, chairman, building committee; Ray Bryant, David Bryant, Terry Ashley, building committee. Not pictured is Larry Gaddis, member of building committee.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

Mar. 9	Home Missions Day in Sunday School (SS Emphasis)
Mar. 9-15	Youth Week (CT Emphasis)
Mar. 10	Youth & Youth Leader DiscipleLife Workshop; West Laurel BC, Laurel; 7-9 p.m. (CT)
Mar. 10-11	Church Growth Conference; Colonial Hgts. BC, Jackson; 6:45-9:30 p.m. (SS/EVAN/CAPM)
Mar. 11	Youth & Youth Leader DiscipleLife Workshop; Easthaven BC, Brookhaven; 7-9 p.m. (CT)
Mar. 13-14	Statewide Church Extension Conference; Baptist Building; Noon, 13th-Noon, 14th (CoMi)
Mar. 13-15	Regional Childlife Conference; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 7 p.m., 13th-Noon, 15th (CT)
Mar. 15	State Quartet Sing; Colonial Heights BC, Jackson; 1:00-9:30 p.m. (CM)
	Associational Youth Night (CT Emphasis)

**Corinth Church, Heidelberg**, recently observed Baptist Men's Day. Edd Holloman, pastor, introduced the program of the day. Special music was presented by Cecil Myrick, Neal Davis, Roy Boney and Robin Herrington, with an all men's choir. Testimonies were given by, T. W. Beaman, Nathan Ethridge, Jessie McCraney, and Bill Crownover.

**Eddie Lieberman**, evangelist, has established what eventually will be a \$55,000 scholarship fund at New Orleans Seminary. Lieberman, a former student at New Orleans Seminary, is a resident of Greenville, S.C.

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5:30	Changed Lives	Super Handyman	At Home With Bible	Insight	Human Dimension	Joy of Music	Prime Timers
6:00	One In The Spirit			COPE			La Vida Hoy
6:30	Catch the Spirit	Westbrook Hospital	Westbrook Hospital	Public Defender	Westbrook Hospital	26 Men	Profiles
7:00	This Is The Life			Sunshine Factory			Imagine That!
7:30	Christopher Closeup			Gigglesnort Hotel			Shari Lewis Show
8:00	Bobby Jones Show			Cisco Kid			Mickey Rooney
9:00	In Touch			Encore Theatre			Bill Cosby Show
9:30	Joy of Music						Country Crossroads
10:00	Home With The Bible	Life Today	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Lifestyle	In Concert
11:00	Human Dimension						
11:30	Profiles	Prime Timers	At Home With Bible	Insight	Human Dimension	Joy of Music	Family Foundations
Noon	Baptist Hour			Sunshine Factory			David Wade
12:30				Gigglesnort Hotel			Plant Groom
1:00	Prime Timers			Cisco Kid			Super Handyman
1:30	The Sunday Selection			Psychiatry and You			Sportsight
2:00				COPE			Jimmy Houston
2:30							Our World
3:00	In Touch			Encore Theatre			Imagine That!
3:30	Joy of Music						Shari Lewis Show
4:00	Home With The Bible			Sunshine Factory			Mickey Rooney
4:30	Human Dimension			Gigglesnort Hotel			David Wade
5:00	Profiles			Cisco Kid			Super Handyman
5:30	This Is The Life	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Bill Cosby Show
6:00	Christopher Closeup						Country Crossroads
7:00	Bobby Jones Show	Home With The Bible	Insight	Human Dimension	Joy of Music	Prime Timers	In Concert
7:30	Changed Lives	David Wade	Plant Groom	Super Handyman	Eat Healthy	Profiles	
8:00	One In The Spirit	Country Crossroads	Great Churches	In Concert	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	Family Foundations
8:30	Catch the Spirit						La Vida Hoy
9:00	The Sunday Selection			COPE			
9:30							
10:00	Baptist Hour	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	This Is The Life Insight
11:00							
11:30	Prime Timers	Home With The Bible	Insight	Human Dimension	Joy of Music	Prime Timers	Bobby Jones Show
Midnight	Changed Lives	David Wade	Plant Groom	Super Handyman	Eat Healthy	Profiles	In Concert
12:30	One In The Spirit	Country Crossroads	Great Churches	In Concert	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	Family Foundations
1:00	Catch the Spirit						Sportsight
1:30	This Is The Life			COPE			Jimmy Houston
2:00	Christopher Closeup						
2:30	Bobby Jones Show	Home With The Bible	Insight	Human Dimension	Joy of Music	Prime Timers	Our World
3:00	Baptist Hour			Encore Theatre			La Vida Hoy
3:30							Profiles
4:00	Prime Timers						
4:30	David Wade	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Bill Cosby Show



Harmony dedicates Family Life Center

Harmony Church, Louisville dedicated its Family Life Center and recently burned the note. The building has a gymnasium, game room, program stage, bathrooms, kitchen, and space for additional classrooms. Pictured, left to right, are John Hatcher, Clifton Daniels and Marvel Williamson. Ed Campbell is pastor.

Thursday, March 6, 1986

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 13

## Religious broadcasters debate on what is "the true American way"

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — People who disagree on political or religious issues should not be considered less American than their opponents, former U.S. Congressman John Buchanan said in a debate during the National Religious Broadcasters annual convention.

Buchanan was countered by television evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, who insisted the "true American way is the true Christian way."

"Imposing someone's view on everyone does not result in revival," said Buchanan, an ordained Southern Baptist minister who represented Alabama in Congress from 1965 to 1980. Buchanan and Swaggart debated Feb. 4.

Buchanan said Christians in the United States should "thank God" their religious liberties are protected by the First Amendment. "Our God does not impose himself on us, and neither should our government," he said.

Recalling the lack of religious liberty during the country's early days, Buchanan warned, "Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell should remember that Virginia Baptist ministers were beaten and run out of town, while Anglican ministers were paid out of government treasuries."

Buchanan added his advocacy of church-state separation does not mean he believes Christians should not be involved in government and politics.

"We have not only the opportunity, but the responsibility to bring faith into political life," he said. "Yes, let us be involved, but let us respect a fact of life: We Christians have always disagreed."

Buchanan, who is now chairman of People for the American Way — an organization often criticized by conservative religious-political groups — also argued that the idea of church-state separation was not born out of secular humanism or atheism. He added, in reference to Swaggart, "Just because we disagree doesn't mean he's on God's side and I'm on Satan's side."

Swaggart countered that the argument is not separation of church and state, but separation of God and state.

"When they legislated God out of the country, they legislated morality out," said Swaggart, who blamed "secular humanists" for destroying traditional American values.

"The reason we have freedom in this country is because of the Bible," Swaggart continued. "During the past 40 to 50 years, secular humanists have encroached upon these freedoms, while Christianity sat back and did little."

Swaggart, who is president of Jimmy Swaggart Ministries in Baton Rouge, La., charged secular humanists with taking over the country's media, entertainment, politics, public schools, and most churches, adding, "They came within a hair's breadth of destroying this nation."

Also aiming criticism at Buchanan's People for the American Way, Swaggart said the organization in its title uses "the same play on

words the Communists use." He then added that the "true American way is the true Christian way."

Buchanan's organization also received mention during another keynote address at the NRB convention.

While recalling the hard times and limited resources shared by himself and other conservative Christian broadcasters during their building years, Pat Robertson, Christian Broadcasting Network president, joked, "We didn't have any organizations like People for the American Way to warn how dangerous we were."

Robertson said while religious broadcasting was growing, the nation also was going through growth — but he characterized the nation's growth as "not good."

Robertson outlined events he said led to "indecision, lack of resolve and moral decay" in the country.

He credited the political involvement of concerned evangelicals with a turnaround in the nation. "We are see-

ing the greatest spiritual revival in the history of the world," he said.

Other major sessions during the NRB convention featured addresses by evangelist Billy Graham and White House Communications Director Patrick Buchanan. More than 2,000 registrants also heard a debate between evangelist Jerry Falwell and Rabbi Joshua Haberman on "The State of Israel in the Christian/Jewish Perspective."

A breakfast honoring the state of Israel was held in conjunction with the NRB convention. Attendance at the breakfast, which was sponsored by Southern Baptist layman Edward McAtee, resulted in only 125 participants attending a plenary NRB session that featured civil rights activist Jesse Jackson.

NRB is an association of nearly 1,200 organizations engaged in producing religious programming for radio and television and operating religious radio and television stations.

Kathy Palen writes for the Washington bureau of Baptist Press.

## Annuity Board reports big gains during 1985

DALLAS (BP) — An open enrollment for church term life and comprehensive medical plans was the most successful promotion in the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's history, trustees learned at their annual meeting Feb. 3-5.

The open enrollment figures were a part of the 1985 annual report delivered by Annuity Board President Darold Morgan.

During the two-month period, 9,374 applicants were enrolled.

While some participants suggested they meet with "conservative" leaders in the state to discuss differences, others the strength of the plans.

Morgan's report also showed in 1985:

— The board's assets rose to almost \$1.7 billion, a gain of nearly \$259 million over 1984;

— More than \$43.7 million in retirement benefits were paid to 15,127 annuitants, the most in any year;

— A total of \$42.9 million was paid in insurance benefits;

— Investments income for the year was \$198 million, a gain of \$89 million.

In other business, trustees heard a report on a proposed relocation of the board's offices. Twelve sites in the Dallas area are under consideration, said A. George Avenger Jr., the board's director of administrative services, who spoke for the relocation committee.

The board sold the building it currently occupies last year. Plans call for it to remain in that building until it builds a new facility or its lease runs out in 1988.

Trustees were notified of the appointment of Marvin T. York as interim director of the investments division. York was investment director

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A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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# Baptist Record

- Life and Work: *Humility in service*
- Uniform: *A hope worth suffering for*
- Bible Book: *A solemn charge by a faithful servant*

## A hope worth suffering for

By Gus Merritt

I Peter 3:13-17; 4:12-19

In America, suffering for Christ's sake has been something about which we know little. We have had freedom of worship which has been denied many other nations. Most other nations have a religious toleration in varying degrees. America has enjoyed true religious freedom. However, as our nation becomes more and more secularized, these freedoms will erode unless we keep alert to prevent it. We are coming to the place where we only have religious toleration. The entertainment industry has taken a decided anti-Christian bias in the last several years. Our judicial system is handing down more decrees against the churches than in past history. Because of this, it is not unrealistic that Christians in America

may one day begin to be persecuted openly for their faith. Much of the persecution of Christians in America has been subtle. For this reason, the words of Peter are very reassuring.

There is blessing which comes out of suffering for righteousness (I Peter 3:13-17; Matthew 5:10-12). I Peter 3:13 reads much like Romans 8:31, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" This does not mean no physical harm will come to the Christian in the midst of violent persecution. After all, many lost their lives. It does mean that no spiritual harm will come to the Christian. Jesus said, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Mt. 10:28). All that men can do is kill the body and only then

with God's permission. God preserves the soul of those who trust Jesus.

The word "happy" in I Peter 3:4, is the same word translated "blessed" in Matthew 5, where Jesus gave the Beatitudes. The clause, "But if you suffer for righteousness' sake," is a fourth class conditional clause. It carries the thought that suffering is not the expected outcome of doing good. The kind of suffering Peter refers to results from doing God's will. The blessing comes from knowing you belong to God and God will vindicate you in the future. The last part of verse 14 and the first part of verse 15 used Isaiah 8:12b-13 as a foundation.

In order to have the blessing of suffering, the Christian must "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts." This means to "set Christ apart as Lord." The heart is the religious center of

man as taught in the Bible. The Christian is in subjection to Christ in everything. We are to be meek. The word "Meek" in the Bible means "accepting God's dealings with us as being both just and good." This is not a passive attitude but an active attitude whereby the Christian does the will of God and trusts him to take care of the consequences. As the Christian reacts to suffering in this way, the unbelievers will want to know why he or she acts this way. The Christian can then witness to the unsaved concerning the reason for this behavior. Many unbelievers have been won to Christ because of Christians living notoriously through suffering (vs. 15).

When the Christian is falsely accused and maligned, the strength of character and godly life will make the false accusers ashamed of their conduct (vs. 16). However, the Christian must make sure he or she suffers for righteousness' sake rather than for

some sin they have committed. Those who complain the loudest because of suffering are usually deserving because of sin in their lives.

There is consolation in suffering for Christ (I Peter 4:12-19). First of all, Peter tells us it is not strange or unusual for the Christian to suffer. Why? Because Christ suffered. If Christ did not escape suffering, why should his followers think they should be immune from suffering? To partake of Christ's suffering means to partake of his glory. The word "fiery" in verse 12 is the word used for refining precious metal. These fiery trials or tests burn out the impurities in the Christian's character and make him or her more like Christ. Again, the emphasis is placed upon suffering with Christ. Just punishment for sins or crimes committed is not in view here.

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sistence of Christ is that a man "deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matt. 16:24). This takes a sense of childlikeness, for it requires trust and obedience. Its very existence on record is a cutting indictment of the way we live and the value systems we cherish.

Jesus said he did not come to be served, but to serve; not to be ministered to, but to minister. Kingdom power is found only through service and he gives us the key to finding it in Matthew 18. First, there must be conversion (v. 18a) which results in a new direction for our lives. Next, as we become "like children," (v. 3b) that is to say more trusting, obedient and selfless, we will receive a new attitude and spirit which will thrust us outside ourselves.

The question we must ask is not, "How can I be greatest?", but, "How can I be least?"

Peter McLeod is pastor, First, Hattiesburg.

represent all the portion of the kingdom we will rule and reign with Christ in, in eternity.

Billy McKay is pastor, First, Belzoni.

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March 6, 1986

## Humility in service

By Peter McLeod

Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14

A local businessman has an advertising campaign based on the slogan, "The Store that Service Built." In response to the persistent and powerful question of his disciples, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matt. 18:1), Jesus answers, as he did in John 13, by illustrating the bedrock truth that in the kingdom of heaven, a person's significance is based on the services he renders, not on those he commands. In Matthew 18 he dramatizes this truth by drawing attention to a child, while in John 13 he underscores it by personal example — washing his disciples' feet. In both instances, he is conveying his fundamental attitude toward life and ministry — an attitude of service above self.

At one time in our history, it would

have been difficult for anyone in the West to grasp the importance of the disciples' question. Today, it's all too much a part of our value system, for behind its surface meaning is the deeper one of personal standing, authority, respect, honor, obedience, service and all else that accompany prestige or a favored position. Jesus did not argue with his disciples, neither did he rebuke them. Rather, he taught them a principle with a living parable — a child. He was trying to get them to understand that there are two ways to gain personal stature. One comes from man, the other from God. His statement to the disciples was that the latter was the way they were to walk.

What are the characteristics of a child? Innocence, trust, obedience, wonder, love and service, to name just a few. Throw a baby into the air and his laughter will ring as you catch

him. There is no fear of falling or rejection. Give a child love and he will do anything for you. No task is too hard, no request too tedious for the child who feels loved. He does what he does out of sheer joy. And that's what Christ expects from his followers.

Jesus had the authority to direct the course of his disciples' ambition — and of ours today — for he lived a life of servanthood. Paul reminds us of this truth in Philippians 2:5-8. At his birth, a star lighted the Syrian sky, yet he was cradled in a manger. At the age of 12, he astonished the priests and elders of the temple with his knowledge, yet he was subject to Mary and Joseph. He refused to turn stones into bread for himself, yet he turned water into wine for others. On the Mount of Transfiguration, he refused to ascend into heaven with two saints, yet he willingly died on a cross between two thieves. Aware of his power, Jesus always used it for a purpose larger than himself — service to

would like to have in his administration. Without a moment's thought, Mr. Graham said to him, "Sir, I believe that Jesus Christ has called me to preach his gospel. To me that is the highest calling any man could have on earth."

C. By carrying out our counterattack (4:3-5). This counterattack is against those who proclaim a salvation by works of the flesh. It cannot save or make one like Jesus Christ. The counterattack involves four things. 1. We must "watch" or stay awake to guard the true gospel of salvation by grace. 2. We must "endure affliction." Remember the soldier is not on furlough or vacation! 3. We must "do the work of an evangelist." We may not have the gift of an evangelist (cf. Eph. 4:11) but we can all witness and win souls (cf. Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). 4. We must "make full proof of thy ministry." We must discharge our message to the fullest degree. It is more difficult to tell Rom. 3:23 to successful people than to those in jail!

II. We are charged to be true to the end of life (4:6-18). If you have ever seen a fireworks show you know that it ends with a tremendous array of

colorful explosions. This passage is literally filled with colorful and beautiful word pictures by the apostle Paul. It is his Swan Song. Why would a soldier fight so hard? The answer is rewards. The battle will be worth it all when we see Jesus Christ and receive our reward for faithfulness in service. We must remember that the writer, Paul, was on death row (4:6). He wanted Timothy to carry on. Let us look at some of the word pictures in 4:6-8. "Offered" refers to an Old Testament drink offering poured out at the base of the altar. "Departure" means to loose a ship from a harbor and set sail to sea. "Fought" is a military term picturing service in God's army. "Finished" pictures a runner in an obstacle race. Paul was a winner. Timothy was in danger of losing. Are you? He mentions Demas in 4:10. He was saying to Timothy and to us, "Don't be like Demas and lose." He reminds Timothy of Mark (4:11) who failed the Lord but repented and came back. He is telling Timothy to come back and win like Mark. The "crown" in 4:8 is not the reward, but represents our reward. A king's crown represents the king's domain. Our crown will